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ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD™

DELUXE

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Después de su pelea con Tyreese, Rick despertó con un nuevo statu quo--ya no es el único líder del grupo y las decisiones las tomarán conjuntamente Tyreese, Dale, Hershel y él. Rick aceptó el cambio, pero quería dejar una cosa clara: aunque no estén de acuerdo con él, hará lo que sea necesario para mantener a todos a salvo.

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¿YA HEMOS PASADO POR AQUÍ? NI SIQUIERA LO *RECUERDO.*

CREO QUE *SÍ*, DE HECHO.

BUENO, HAREMOS OTRO BARRIDO--SOLO PARA ESTAR *SEGUROS.*

SI CREES QUE ES NECESARIO, CLARO, PERO CREO QUE YA HEMOS PASADO POR TODO ESTE PABELLÓN *TRES VECES,* Y NO HEMOS VISTO NINGÚN CAMINANTE DESDE LA *PRIMERA* PASADA.

COMO HE DICHO, SOLO PARA ESTAR *SEGUROS.* DESPUÉS DE TODO, VAMOS A TENER *NIÑOS* AQUÍ.

MUY BIEN. NO ME ESTOY QUEJANDO. TODA PRECAUCIÓN ES *POCA.*

CUANDO POR FIN NOS REPARTAMOS POR EL RESTO DE LA PRISIÓN, ESTE LUGAR VA ESTAR REALMENTE BIEN.

PODEMOS LLEGAR A TENER UNA VIDA AQUÍ.

SERÁ ESTUPENDO SI PODEMOS HACER QUE FUNCIONE EL *GENERADOR.* MEJORARÁ *MUCHO* LA SITUACIÓN AQUÍ, INCLUSO SI SOLO LO ENCENDEMOS UNAS HORAS AL DÍA.

SÍ, ESTARÁ BIEN ESCUCHAR UN POCO DE MÚSICA--TÍO, HA PASADO *TANTO TIEMPO* DESDE QUE ESCUCHÉ *ALGUNA COSA...* ¿Y SABES QUÉ? NO ME HABÍA DADO CUENTA HASTA *AHORA.*

HAS TENIDO *MUCHAS COSAS* EN LA CABEZA DURANTE *MUCHO* TIEMPO. EN COMPRENSIBLE.

¿SABES EN QUÉ HE ESTADO PENSANDO MUCHO ÚLTIMAMENTE? EN *MORGAN* Y... DIOS, NI SIQUIERA ME ACUERDO DEL *NOMBRE* DE SU HIJO. CREO QUE ERA DAVID... PERO NO ESTOY SEGURO.

¿QUIÉN?

ESTABAN EN LA CASA AL LADO DE LA MÍA EN CYNTHIANA--EL PUEBLO EN EL QUE VIVÍAMOS. MORGAN Y SU HIJO, COMO SEA QUE SE LLAMASE, SE QUEDARON EN ESA CASA, ELLOS SOLOS.

HABÍAN DECIDIDO *NO* TRATAR DE LLEGAR A UNA GRAN CIUDAD, IBAN A QUEDARSE ALLÍ Y ARREGLÁRSELAS SOLOS. LO QUE HA RESULTADO SER *CONDENADAMENTE* INTELIGENTE.

PIENSO EN ELLOS--ME PREGUNTO SI SEGUIRÁN AHÍ FUERA.

ESO FUE HACE MÁS DE MEDIO AÑO... ASÍ QUE QUIÉN *SABE*.

SÍ-- TIENES RA--

KRIK.

VOY A DAR LA VUELTA A LA ESQUINA PARA VER LO QUE HAY-- PREPÁRATE PARA DISPARAR.

VALE.

¡¿MIERDA, TÍOS?!

¡¿TYREESE?!

¡JODER, PODRÍAMOS HABERTE *DISPARADO!*

¿DÓNDE ESTÁ TU LINTERNA?

LAS BATERÍAS SE AGOTARON. ¿QUE ESTÁIS HACIENDO POR AQUÍ OTRA VEZ? CREÍ QUE ESTA ZONA ESTABA *DESPEJADA.*

EN REALIDAD, ACABAMOS DE TERMINAR AQUÍ. VAMOS, CHICOS-- VAMOS A ALGUNA PARTE CON *VENTANAS.*

¿OS HABÉIS TOPADO CON MÁS MERODEADORES, TÍOS?

NO--CREO QUE ACABAMOS CON *TODOS*.

TODAVÍA ME GUSTARÍA COMPROBAR UNAS ***CUANTAS*** ZONAS MÁS ANTES DE QUE EMPECEMOS A TRASLADAR A LA GENTE AQUÍ--SI OS PARECE BIEN.

A MÍ ME PARECE BIEN. NO CREO QUE SEA ***NECESARIO***, PERO SI CREES QUE ES UNA BUENA IDEA, *PERFECTO*.

¿Y VOSOTROS, CHICOS? ¿HABÉIS ACABADO AHÍ FUERA?

DE ESO VENÍA A HABLAROS. YA HEMOS SACADO TODOS LOS CUERPOS DE LA PRISIÓN.

BILLY Y AXEL ESTÁN QUEMÁNDOLOS AHORA.

¡TÍOS!

¡MIRAD LO QUE MAGGIE Y YO HEMOS ENCONTRADO!

¿QUÉ ES?

ES UNA PLACA DE PECHO BLINDADO PARA UNOS TRAJES ANTIDISTURBIOS QUE ENCONTRAMOS. TIENEN PROTECTORES PARA LA CARA Y TODA CLASE DE PROTECTORES Y DE TODO.

¿EN SERIO? ¿CUÁNTOS?

UN ***MONTÓN.*** COMO DIEZ O MÁS, CREO. LA VERDAD ES QUE NO LO REVISAMOS TAN A FONDO. QUERÍA DECÍRTELO PRIMERO.

PERO ESTÁ MUY BIEN. CON ESTE CHISME, PERFECTAMENTE PODRÍA EMPEZAR A BUSCAR SUMINISTROS EN LAS ZONAS PRÓXIMAS A LA PRISIÓN--IGUAL QUE HICE EN ATLANTA.

ESTAS COSAS PARECE QUE NO TENDRÍAN NINGÚN PROBLEMA PARA DETENER UNA ***BALA***--MUCHO MENOS UNOS ***DIENTES*** VIEJOS Y PODRIDOS.

ENSÉÑANOSLO.

NO HAY VENTANAS, POR LO QUE ESTÁ BASTANTE OSCURO AQUÍ DENTRO. IMAGINO QUE TENÍAN QUE MANTENER ESTE CUARTO ***SEGURO,*** CON TODOS LOS PRISIONEROS POR LOS ALREDEDORES.

CREO QUE INCLUSO ES UNA PARTE EN QUE LOS PRISIONEROS NO TENÍAN PERMITIDO EL PASO. ESTÁ JUSTO AL LADO DE LA OFICINA DEL ALCAIDE.

DONDE, POR CIERTO--HAY UN ***SOFÁ*** QUE ES MUCHO MÁS CÓMODO QUE CUALQUIERA DE LAS ***CAMAS*** EN LAS QUE HEMOS ESTADO DURMIENDO.

MUCHO MÁS CÓMODO.

GRACIAS. AHORA NI SIQUIERA QUIERO ESTAR ***CERCA*** DE ESE SOFÁ.

DEXTER Y ANDREW DEBIERON SUBIR ***CAGANDO LECHES*** AQUÍ, CASI ***A OSCURAS.*** IGUAL DEXTER YA TENÍA UN PLAN PARA ENTRAR POR LA FUERZA A ESTE SITIO.

DE LO CONTRARIO, NO VEO ***CÓMO*** PODRÍA HABER ENTRADO Y SALIDO DE AQUÍ COMO LO HIZO, SIN QUE LE ATACARA UN SOLO CAMINANTE.

DEBIERON VENIR AQUÍ A OSCURAS, A TIENTAS PARA ENCONTRAR ALGO DE UTILIDAD.

SI HUBIERAN PUESTO LAS MANOS EN UN PAR DE ESTOS ***TRAJES--*** HABRÍAN SIDO UN PROBLEMA MAYOR.

SOBRE TODO SI ESTOS ***CASCOS*** SON A PRUEBA DE BALAS.

SÍ.

CIERTO.

VALE, CHICOS-- PARECE QUE LA PRISIÓN ESTÁ ***DESPEJADA.*** SALGAMOS DE AQUÍ.

VAYA--¿CON GANAS DE UNOS CUANTOS *AÑOS* DE LECTURA?

¿ESTÁS DE COÑA? ME VENTILARÉ ESTO EN UNA *SEMANA*. *DOS* COMO *MUCHO*.

YA CASI ME HE LEÍDO *TRES* VECES LOS POCOS LIBROS QUE COGÍ DE LA GRANJA DE HERSHEL.

TRAE, DÉJAME QUE TE AYUDE CON ESOS *LIBROS*. TE HAS DEJADO UN PAR EN LA BIBLIOTECA, ¿VERDAD?

LORI--¿PUEDES DEVOLVERME ESOS LIBROS, *POR FAVOR*? ESTANDO EMBARAZADA--NO TIENES QUE CARGAR PESO.

TONTERÍAS.

NO SOY *INÚTIL*. AL MENOS PUEDO LLEVAR *ESTO*. ADEMÁS, SOLO TE PREOCUPA QUE ALGUNO DE ESTOS LIBROS ENCUENTRE SU CAMINO HASTA MI CELDA ANTES DE QUE PUEDAS LEERLOS.

NO. ME *PREOCUPA* DE VERDAD. TE HAS ESTADO ESFORZANDO *DEMASIADO* ÚLTIMAMENTE.

CAROL, POR FAVOR. ESTOY ***BIEN.***

TÚ ERES LA QUE DEBERÍA PREOCUPARNOS. ¿CÓMO TE ENCUENTRAS?

ESTOY... ***BIEN.*** NO ME PUEDO CREER QUE HICIERA LO QUE HICE. OJALÁ PUDIERA RETROCEDER EN EL TIEMPO.

SÉ A LO QUE TE REFIERES-- ***CRÉEME.***

SÉ ***POR QUÉ*** LO HICE. APENAS PUEDO CREER QUE LO HICIERA--TYREESE ERA-- CON TODO LO QUE ESTABA PASANDO A NUESTRO ALREDEDOR, TENER A TYREESE LO HACÍA TODO MÁS SOPORTABLE.

SABÍA QUE PASARA LO QUE PASARA, ***ÉL*** ESTARÍA AHÍ PARA MÍ. ESPECIALMENTE TRAS SOBREVIVIR A LO DEL GIMNASIO--CUANDO ESO PASÓ Y SOBREVIVIÓ, ***SUPE*** QUE ÉL IBA A SOBREVIVIR A CUALQUIER COSA.

LE NECESITABA, QUIZÁS ***AÚN*** LE NECESITE. ¿QUIÉN SABE? ESTOY TAN HECHA POLVO QUE YA NI SIQUIERA LO SÉ.

Y LA POBRE SOPHIA, LO QUE LE HICE PASAR... NUNCA PODRÉ ENMENDARLO. ME RECONCOME POR DENTRO Y NUNCA PODRÉ DAR MARCHA ATRÁS.

¿CÓMO LO ***LLEVA*** SOPHIA?

NO LO SÉ. ***PARECE*** QUE ESTÁ BIEN. SE COMPORTA COMO SI NO HUBIERA PASADO NADA--LO QUE TENGO QUE ADMITIR QUE ME PREOCUPA ***MÁS.***

LO QUE VIO--ES QUE-- ¿QUÉ CLASE DE MADRE SOY?

ERES UNA MADRE QUE HA MANTENIDO CON *VIDA* A SU HIJA DURANTE TODA ESTA LOCURA. NO PIENSES NI POR UN SEGUNDO QUE CREO QUE LO QUE HICISTE ESTUVO *BIEN*, PERO NO TIENE SENTIDO QUE TE MARTIRICES POR ELLO AHORA MISMO.

LO SIENTO. LORI, *SIENTO* DE VERAS LO QUE HICE.

¡¿CAROL, QUÉ?! ¿POR QUÉ TE DISCULPAS CONMIGO?

LO SIENTO, LORI. ES QUE TÚ Y RICK SOIS MIS MEJORES AMIGOS AQUÍ Y LO QUE HICE--- TENGO LA SENSACIÓN DE QUE OS HE *DECEPCIONADO*. OS QUIERO A *LOS DOS* Y NO QUIERO QUE ME *ODIÉIS*.

¿ODIARTE? NO TE ODIAMOS... TAN SOLO ESTAMOS PREOCUPADOS, PREOCUPADOS POR TI. NOSOTROS--

TAMBIÉN TE QUEREMOS, CAROL.

OH, *GRACIAS*. NO SABES CUÁNTO SIGNIFICA PARA MÍ SABER QUE AMBOS ME QUERÉIS.

MAÑANA PODRÉ ENTRAR AHÍ Y HACER UN INVENTARIO DE LAS ARMAS Y LA MUNICIÓN. ASÍ TENDREMOS UN LISTADO DE TODO LO QUE TENEMOS.

SEGURAMENTE TAMBIÉN DEBERÍAMOS PLANEAR EXTRAER COMBUSTIBLE PARA QUE MAÑANA TAMBIÉN PODAMOS VER SI EL GENERADOR FUNCIONA.

¿MAÑANA? POR LO MENOS NOS QUEDAN CINCO HORAS MÁS DE LUZ. ¿POR QUÉ NO LO HACEMOS *HOY?*

TIENES RAZÓN, GLENN. PODRÍAMOS IR AL GARAJE Y EXTRAER ALGO DE COMBUSTIBLE DE LA CARAVANA.

NO. TENEMOS QUE MANTENER LA CARAVANA A PUNTO PARA IRNOS, POR SI ALGUNA VEZ NOS TENEMOS QUE MARCHAR DE AQUÍ A TODA PRISA.

DE ACUERDO. ESO ES ALGO QUE DEBERÍAMOS HACER. ES ***INTELIGENTE.*** POR LO QUE SUPONGO QUE TENDREMOS QUE SALIR FUERA Y EXTRAER ALGO DE COMBUSTIBLE DE LOS COCHES QUE QUEDAN EN EL APARCAMIENTO DE LA PRISIÓN.

PODRÍAMOS REUNIR UN GRUPO DE GENTE PARA ALEJAR A LOS ZOMBIS DE LA PUERTA--CORRER HASTA ALLÍ, EXTRAER ALGO DE COMBUSTIBLE Y VOLVER DENTRO ANTES DE QUE SEPAN SIQUIERA QUE ESTUVIMOS AL OTRO LADO DE LA VALLA.

SERÁ COMO EN LOS VIEJOS TIEMPOS.

POR MÍ BIEN. DAME UNOS MINUTOS MIENTRAS REÚNES UNAS CUANTAS PERSONAS PARA CREAR UNA DISTRACCIÓN Y NOS ENCONTRAREMOS EN LA PUERTA.

¿A DÓNDE VA?

¿TÚ QUÉ *CREES?*

ALLEN.

=AINS.=

NO PUEDO DECIRTE LO FELIZ QUE ESTOY DE QUE DECIDIERAN ENTERRARTE EN VEZ DE INCINERARTE. ME HACE PENSAR QUE ESTÁS MÁS ***EN PAZ.***

ME GUSTAN ESTAS CHARLAS, A PESAR DE QUE PROBABLEMENTE CONTRIBUYEN EN GRAN MEDIDA A QUE PIENSEN QUE ESTOY ***LOCO.***

DA IGUAL-- HOY NO TENGO TIEMPO PARA HABLAR. HAY MUCHO QUE HACER--COMO SIEMPRE.

AGUANTA AHÍ.

Y DE NUEVO-- SIENTO LO DE LA ***PIERNA.***

¡ESO NO ES *JUSTO!*

ME *DA IGUAL* SI CREES QUE NO ES JUSTO. NO VOY A DEJAR QUE AYUDES. ES DEMASIADO PELIGROSO.

QUIERO *AYUDAR*. ¿POR QUÉ NO PUEDO *AYUDAR?* TODOS LOS *DEMÁS* VAN A HACER ALGO. LO ÚNICO QUE HAGO SIEMPRE ES JUGAR CON JUGUETES VIEJOS Y NO HACER NADA. NUNCA PUEDO *HACER* NADA.

ESTARÍA AL OTRO LADO DE LA VALLA, LORI. NO ESTARÍA EN *PELIGRO*. LE VENDRÍA BIEN AL CHICO SENTIR QUE PUEDE SER DE AYUDA.

ME *DA IGUAL*. ES DEMASIADO *PELIGROSO*.

¿QUÉ OCURRE?

TODOS VAN A AYUDAR A ALEJAR A LOS ZOMBIS DE LA PUERTA PARA QUE GLENN Y TÚ PODÁIS IR A BUSCAR LA GASOLINA--PERO *MAMÁ* NO *ME* DEJA AYUDAR.

TU MADRE TIENE RAZÓN. NO HEMOS *HECHO* ESTO ANTES. NO SABEMOS *QUÉ* PODRÍA PASAR. PODRÍAMOS ENCONTRAR UN AGUJERO EN LA VALLA O LOS ZOMBIS PODRÍAN *TIRAR* LA VALLA EXTERIOR.

QUIZÁS PUEDAS AYUDAR DESPUÉS DE QUE HAYAMOS HECHO ESTO VARIAS VECES, PERO AHORA MISMO, NO ES *SEGURO*. QUÉDATE CON TU MADRE.

VALE.

SEGUID ANDANDO. NO OS QUEDÉIS PARADOS NI LOS ALTERÉIS. QUEREMOS QUE NOS *SIGAN*--NO QUE TIREN ABAJO LAS VALLAS PARA QUE NOS PILLEN.

ALGÚN DÍA, VIEJO, TENDRÁS QUE APRENDER QUE NO TODO EL MUNDO ES UN COMPLETO IMBÉCIL.

SOLO TÚ, ¿VERDAD?

QUE TE JODAN.

ERA UNA *BROMA*, OTIS. CENTRÉMONOS EN ALEJAR A ESAS COSAS DE LA VALLA PARA QUE RICK Y GLENN PUEDAN HACER SU TRABAJO.

LO QUE TÚ DIGAS.

VALE, AHORA QUE HEMOS ALEJADO A LA MAYORÍA DE LOS CAMINANTES DE LA PUERTA, PODEMOS HACERLO.

YO PROBABLEMENTE COGERÉ UN MARTILLO PARA OCUPARME DEL RESTO DE LOS ZOMBIS DE AHÍ FUERA DESPUÉS DE QUE GLENN Y TÚ OS HAYÁIS IDO. NO HAY RAZÓN PARA QUEDARNOS DE BRAZOS CRUZADOS ESPERANDO HASTA QUE REGRESÉIS--Y NO HAY RAZÓN PARA DEJAR QUE DEAMBULEN POR AHÍ.

CUANDO GLENN Y YO ESTEMOS PREPARADOS PARA SALIR AHÍ FUERA-- ABRID LA PUERTA Y CORREREMOS TODO LO QUE PODAMOS. PERO VIGILADNOS--PUEDE QUE NECESITEMOS QUE ABRÁIS LA PUERTA A TODA PRISA CUANDO VOLVAMOS.

¿ALGUIEN HA VISTO A *GLENN*? ¿DÓNDE *COÑO* ESTÁ? TODO ESTO FUE IDEA *SUYA*.

ESTARÁ EN ALGUNA PARTE CON ESA NOVIA DELGADITA SUYA. ¿CÓMO SE LLAMABA? MAGGIE, ¿VERDAD?

YO NO PUEDO CULPARLE. ¿ME SIGUES?

MAGGIE ES MI *HIJA*, AXEL.

OH. CLARO.

LO SIENTO.

SIENTO LLEGAR TARDE, TÍOS.

COMO PODÉIS VER--ME HA LLEVADO UN BUEN RATO *VESTIRME.*

...Y UN POCO DE *AYUDA.*

¿DE VERDAD CREES QUE TODO ESO ES NECESARIO?

NO PERDEMOS *NADA.* VAMOS--SABES QUE TE *MUERES* POR PROBAR ESTOS CHISMES.

¿QUÉ MEJOR MOMENTO QUE *AHORA?*

M,UY BIEN, SUPONGO QUE EL OTRO TRAJE ES PARA *MÍ.*

DÁMELO.

TE SIENTA *BIEN,* TÍO.

¿SABES? TENÍAN UN MONTÓN DE ESTOS ALLÍ ARRIBA CON LOS TRAJES. PODRÍAN SER ÚTILES SI NECESITAMOS APLASTAR ALGUNAS CABEZAS SIN ATRAER LA ATENCIÓN HACIA NOSOTROS CON TIROS.

PREFIERO MI HACHA, MUCHAS GRACIAS. ME HE ACOSTUMBRADO A USARLA CON LA MANO *IZQUIERDA.*

NO PUEDO HACER GRAN COSA CON LA DERECHA TODAVÍA, EXCEPTO APORREARLE A ALGUIEN.

¿ESTÁIS LISTOS?

CUANDO QUIERAS.

¡YA!

THUNK!

VAMOS-- ¡POR AQUÍ!

¡HAGAMOS ESTO LO MÁS *RÁPIDO* POSIBLE.

NO NECESITAS TENER LA VISERA BAJADA, ¿SABES? NO HAY NADIE AQUÍ LANZÁNDONOS COSAS, ES INNECESARIO.

SI NO NECESITAMOS LAS VISERAS, TAMPOCO NECESITAMOS LOS ***CASCOS***, ¿NO? Y PROBABLEMENTE LAS ***BOTAS*** TAMBIÉN NOS ESTÁN RETRASANDO.

PENSABA QUE ESTÁBAMOS PROBANDO ESTOS CHISMES FUERA--VIENDO SI SERÁN ÚTILES. NO TENDREMOS UNA LÍNEA CLARA DE VISIÓN EN EL APARCAMIENTO, Y POR MI PARTE, NO ME APETECE CORRER ***RIESGOS.***

TIENES RAZÓN. SIMPLEMENTE NO CREO QUE NECESITES QUE ESE CHISME TE OBSTRUYA LA VISIÓN. SÉ QUE ***MOLA*** Y QUIERES EXPERIMENTAR EL EFECTO COMPLETO Y TAL, ES SOLO MI OPINIÓN.

QUIERO LOGRAR EL EFECTO COMPLETO. TIENES RAZÓN.

HASTA AHORA, ME ENCANTA ESTO. HABRÍA MATADO POR TENER UNO DE ESTOS TRAJES EN ATLANTA CUANDO CONSEGUIMOS LAS ARMAS.

SÉ LO QUE QUIERES DECIR. SI ESTO ES A PRUEBA DE ARMA BLANCA--*TIENE* QUE SER A PRUEBA DE ***MORDISCO.***

EH, TÍO... ATENTO. NO ESTAMOS SOLO.

YA ES MÍO.

SHUKK!!

VALE-- HEMOS LLEGADO. ESCOGE UNO Y MANOS A LA OBRA.

MANTENDRÉ LOS OJOS ABIERTOS POR SI ALGUNO SE ACERCA DEMASIADO. TÚ PREOCÚPATE DE CONSEGUIR LA ***GASOLINA***.

TÍO--LA MAYORÍA DE ESTOS COCHES ESTÁN HECHOS POLVO. PARECE QUE UN MONTÓN DE GENTE SE MARCHÓ DE AQUÍ A TODA PRISA.

ANDA--¡HAS CONSEGUIDO ALGO EN EL PRIMER INTENTO! SUPONGO QUE AQUÍ NADIE SE HABRÍA QUEDADO SIN GASOLINA EN SU PLAZA DE APARCAMIENTO. AHORA QUE LO PIENSO.

¿CREES QUE MAGGIE ME SEGUIRÍA RESPETANDO SI SUPIERA LO BUENO SOY SUCCIONANDO GASOLINA A TRAVÉS DE UNA MANGUERA?

PARECE QUE LOS DOS OS LLEVÁIS A LAS MIL MARAVILLAS, GLENN.

¿VERDAD QUE ESTÁIS FELICES JUNTOS? DESDE LUEGO ES LO QUE **PARECE**. ME ***ALEGRO*** POR TI.

¡¡OH, ***DIOS MÍO***, RICK, ***MIRA***!!

NO ESTOY ***VIENDO*** VISIONES, ¿VERDAD?

LA *HOSTIA*-- TIENES *RAZÓN.*

ES UN *HELICÓPTERO.*

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

I, Amanda, remember the anticipation and excitement I felt reading the arrival of this helicopter the first time. We were only 25 issues in, and I was young and hopeful! Ahh, to be young and reading TWD for the first time again. Now, I'm just hopeful for new letters, and this milestone issue also happens to coincide with the start of our next story arc, so thankfully I'm in luck! Every six issues or so, we're answering some all-new mail in addition to the classic Letter Hacks. So, whether you're reading for the first time, or all over again, drop us a line. This editor gets nostalgic.

Have I talked about how much I hate it when adults talk about how young they were when they were reading THE WALKING DEAD? Man, that is NOT fun. I mean, I was half a baby when I started this book, but still. I believe I was around 25 when I wrote this issue, so there's a sharp contrast between then and now for me... now that I'm 54 years old.

ANYWAY, more about this helicopter bit to be revealed later in CUTTING ROOM FLOOR. You're all reading that, right? It's fun taking a dusty walk down memory lane for those. I hope you're all enjoying them as much as I am.

Okay... NEW mail, let's dive in! Kirkman out!

Hi All,

I first came across the Walking Dead two years ago when I was looking for a comic series outside of the Marvel and DC landscape. I soon realised that I came across a corker and I dived straight in and bought the first compendium. Without delay the rest followed. I just couldn't stop reading. I love its focus on humanity, the strength in community, relationships and REAL hard work. It has so many voices and its diverse cast makes it accessible to so many people. It was a blast to read and I hope more people discover it in the decades to come.

I'm currently re-reading the series alongside watching the T.V show for the first time. It's been entertaining to see what the show has added to the story and how it has represented iconic moments. Best of all, I've got my family hooked who's watching it with me (and are trying to coax comic spoilers out from me to find out what's going to happen next!).

Hold that information sacred, better yet, make them read the comics if they want to know!

I have a subscription to the deluxe series and I can't wait to experience the story in the single issue format along with iconic covers. But most importantly in colour! I'm going to be one proud owner of all 193 deluxe issues (and perhaps the one shots too?)

The goal is to get through the main series in its entirety first--still an impressive collection! But those one-shot specials might make their way to color eventually. I'll never say never.

Thanks to all involved in making something that is loved by so many people.

Many Thanks,
James Teague, UK

Actually, Amanda! I'll go ahead and confirm that every stitch of THE WALKING DEAD will be colored (or coloured—that's for you, Charlie!) eventually. But yes, the main series is taking priority. HERE'S NEGAN, NEGAN LIVES!, all the short stories, all of it.

Mr. Kirkman and the walking dead team,

I'm just going to start off by saying I'm a huge fan of TWD. Like many others, I discovered the franchise through the show during quarantine. I had always been aware of the show but I simply never got around to watching it, but boy I'm glad I did. Over the past year or so it's safe to say I've become obsessed.

Starting TWD during an actual pandemic... you have a stronger constitution than I.

I finished the entire series in about two months thanks to the wonderful compendiums. You all probably get this a lot, but TWD is by far my favorite comic of all time. The world you guys have managed to create is just so unbelievably intriguing to me. In my future I plan perusing my dream of writing for comics and I'd like Mr. Kirkman to know that he's been a huge inspiration to me!

That's awesome to hear, Cooper! Good luck!

I have two questions for you guys. In issue number 193 I definitely was picking up on some old west vibes and I was totally loving it! Was that intentional? I especially love the 'western front' and hershel's traveling cart of horrors.

Well, yeah. The western vibe has been present since issue #1, or really Rick riding the horse into Atlanta in issue #2, and that continued to the end.

My second question is for Mr. Kirkman. I know this is probably a common question for you, but how do you get yourself motivated to write, and once you do where do you try and draw inspiration from?

Revenge, mostly? Half joking, but wherever you can find motivation, take it. My favorite thing about The Last Dance *documentary is the famous story of Michael Jordan brutally shutting down some other player (not that familiar with basketball) in a famous game. And Jordan reveals in the documentary that he MADE UP the insult and convinced himself to be angry just to motivate*

him. That's a champion right there. Kind of crazy? Maybe a little, but you can't argue with results. One of my main motivations when I started this book was to not be homeless, or rather, to pay off my debt and not have to move back in with my parents. These days I have to find motivation elsewhere.

When it comes to inspiration... just try to pull from as many different sources as possible. Literally anything you encounter can inspire something.

Thank you for everything you do!

Cooper Amadei
Wayne, IL

Thanks for writing, Cooper!

TWD Team,

I've been reading TWD single issues since №31 (in 2006! wow.) and I've never written a letter in because I just didn't think I had a good thing to talk about.

A first-time letter in 15 years! Welcome to the hallowed Letters Hacks, Michael, where you'll find we talk surprisingly a lot about how we'll never publish this series in color.

I wanted to thank you guys for making such an amazing universe - for the comics especially, but also TV, action figures, video games (Clem lives!!) and the Walking Dead minis game by Mantic. TWD has become an obsession for me like nothing else.

Collecting TWD comics has very much helped me get through the pandemic - I have two kids and a demanding job in healthcare and so this was a great outlet. I decided to complete my run going back to №1 a few months after the pandemic started and hunting for those issues has been an amazing way to pass my free time and relieve stress. Now I'm on to variants and exclusives and finding comics to be graded. This time around with TWD: Deluxe I'm collecting every cover at cover price and most of the incentives - gotta get 'em all.

I hope to meet Mr. Kirkman some day at a con after all this apocalypse stuff blows over and get my №1 signed - thanks for all you do!

Michael Ovsenik
Michigan

Always awesome to hear about comics helping people through the pandemic. It's rough out there. Especially for the healthcare providers. So, thank you!

Personally, I got through the bulk of quarantine by collecting and assembling Transformers statues and trying to collect a full run of Chris Claremont's X-Men *run. That's been a fun challenge that is sadly almost complete. Oh well, there's plenty of other comics out there to collect!*

Good evening Robert Kirkman
(or whatever time of day you read this)

I was a pretty big fan of your work from the 1/4 of invincible I have read at this point and when I found out Walking Dead was being reprinted and id never read the series before (or seen the show) I just had to hop on. I am loving it so far. Though I gotta say I don't know what you're doing with Rick right now, but I'm hoping it's heading in a good direction. So I have some questions.

1. Most of these arcs/plotlines so far have been corresponding to a location. Example: basecamp, the farm, the jail. When you started writing this series, did you have a list of locations you wanted to see the cast of characters go through, and did you have any locations you wanted to do but couldn't?

I had a list of a few. Originally, the prison was going to be a high school, but we got around to the high school eventually. Honestly, the most important thing was the character drama. The locations were just backdrops, so while some of it was planned, most of it came organically from developing the character arcs.

2. If you knew anyone in real life named Carl/Shane before writing this, did they see your work and feel concerned for themselves based on how much you put Carl/Shane through in this comic?

Shane was just a random name picked out of a hat... but Carl is named after my father. He quite enjoys hearing Andrew Lincoln say his name constantly in the TV show. He's been to set a few times and got to meet Chandler and the rest of the cast.

3. Any music you listen to while writing? If so, what?

When writing THE WALKING DEAD, it was a lot of The Dirty Three *and* Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. *QUITE helpful to get in the right mood. We even used a* Dirty Three *song in the show at least once.*

Thank you for this great series. I cannot wait for issue 20. (And whatever is awaiting for me in issue 75 that keeps getting brought up)

Stay Spooky
Ben Freedman
New York City

Enjoy the experience, Ben!

Letter Hacks,

Firstly, I'd like to thank Robert Kirkman for getting me into comics (my wallet is not so thankful). I have always been a fan of Marvel and DC movies and TV shows however the comics always seemed overwhelming, there is so much content I never knew where to start, so I just didn't. However that all changed when I saw the trailer for Invincible, I knew it was something I'd be into and that it was based on a finished comic series so I thought what the hay I'll check it out and bought all three compendiums and I couldn't put it down, finished the whole series in a weekend. I've read every comic/graphic novel I can get my hands on since and I even have something like 30 series' on my pull list at my LCS, TWDD among them.

It's so cool to be hearing about people who came to THE WALKING DEAD through INVINCIBLE.

Enough about invincible time to focus on The Walking Dead. My journey with the walking dead started my freshmen year of high school when I started watching the show after the second season I was really into the show for a few years until one of my favorite characters was introduced to Lucille... I haven't watched the show since. I mean I was also starting college and didn't have a lot of time for tv so it also kinda fell off my radar but tomayto tomahto.

Shame to hear you're such a wimp!

So after my introduction to comics, I discovered Kirkman is also the mind behind the walking dead and so I knew I had to read it. I was about to purchase the compendiums when I discovered it was being reprinted and I knew I had to experience the series one issue at a time so I bought all the issues that were already released and immediately added it to my pull. I gotta tell you I am loving it, the walking dead has become my favorite comic and I look forward to reading it every time a "new" issue comes out. I am even going to go back and binge-watch the series to catch up before the final season.

Thrilled that we have two new TWD readers in this month's letters. This whole Deluxe edition was worth it!

Agreed!

I was surprised that Daryl was not in the comics he is definitely my favorite character in the show, before I started reading the comics Daryl Dixon was the first character that came to mind whenever TWD was mentioned, and to find out he isn't even in the source material, mind blown. So that brings me to my question is there a character in the show that wasn't in the comic that you wish you put in the comics, or a character in the comic that didn't make the cut for the show that you think should've?

P.S. I promise not to quit reading after Lucille is introduced...

We're going to hold you to that!

Keep making great content I may be late but I am officially a fan for life,

Sarah Jane
San Antonio, Texas

To answer your question... not really. I think Allen and Heath didn't get enough of a spotlight on the show, but I'm having a hard time thinking of a comic character I wish had appeared who didn't. As far as the reverse, I love Daryl Dixon, but I don't know how he would have improved the comic if he'd been there. Might have been a Carol situation where the TV show character is so much better than what I did, it's just embarrassing.

Hi Letter Hacks!

I used to read comic books when I was a little girl. The thing is, The Walking Dead brought me back to the comic world and I can't thank you guys enough for that.

Thanks! If you need me, I'll be over here crumbling to dust.

As many other people, I started my journey with The Walking Dead from the show - my dad made me watch the first episode with him. Later it was time for the comics and honestly I like them like 10 000 times better! I don't even watch the show anymore, I just can't - not after what happened to my beloved comic characters - Andrea and especially Carl, my favorite fictional character ever. But I still love the comics so very much and being able to read them again, in color, is like a whole new experience. I love most of the new covers as well, they're all awesome! I recommend TWD comics to whoever I can and I just love talking about them.

It's been so awesome to see David Finch revisit all these iconic moments in the series for his covers, and some of the quieter moments too. His issue #32 cover you're going to want to look out for, we just got that one in and it's a stunner.

Finch is the best!

I even had that dream once - I was sent to prison (I don't remember why), but it wasn't the sad part. The worst was when some guy was selling some random issues of The Walking Dead and I didn't have any money on me. Real nightmare, believe me.

My other dream though was a crossover with Doctor Who, where Carl was the Doctor's companion and they fought aliens together.

I like the sound of that!

Anyway, Mr. Kirkman, I love your work in general. I am also a fan of Outcast.

I also like The Walking Dead video game (although I am still halfway through) and I pretty much enjoy reading Rick Grimes 2000 as well. This project was a pleasant surprise, love to see some new content of my favorite characters. (I am also very very happy with Princess being pansexual since I am too. It made my heart swell.)

This is the first time I'm writing to any comic book ever and it would make my day (week, month even) to get printed.

You won me over Julia, I've got a soft spot for first time letter writers.

Julia Daria,
Poland

I wrote to y'all about 2 years ago before the comic ended and you were kind enough to respond even though I was quite rude. Well I am not sure If anyone still reads this but I wanted to share some thoughts with you. Also please find my original comments below.

Omitted for spoilers but archived back in issue #190 Letter Hacks... we'll see it again eventually.

Over the last few weeks I reread the comic and realized that part of your response was very accurate. One of you suggested that reading is like a roller coaster and since I read the first 28 volumes in quick succession it all flew by. Once I had to wait for each issue flaws became more evident since I could not move on quick enough and this left me quite salty. This is pretty accurate as rereading the whole thing

at once I certainly had much less distaste as I could just keep reading.

This being said I still pretty well stand by my comments as I feel they are true. I do apologize for inconsiderate language used as yeah it probably is uncomprehensively difficult to keep something going for so long. In general I really did like the comic and while the last 20 or so issues remain a low point for me it is still some of the best out there. Thanks again for getting back to me, hope everyone is healthy.

Andrew

Being the new person here, who has not responded to your first letter, I'll agree that it's a tremendous feat in comics to sustain any story for 193 issues! We're just now at #25 in the Deluxe edition and while that seems like a blip in the span of the full series, it was a two-year journey in the publication timeline. For a story about the zombie apocalypse, I'll say that the thing that resonated with me most in TWD was how human it stayed throughout. Perhaps the wonder of it all is how we continue on so much like ourselves, even if the world changes around us. Then again, maybe third time's the charm?

Thanks for writing in again, Andrew. And clarifying your points. I always welcome criticism from all places. That said, I'm very proud of how the book wrapped up and happy you're in the vast minority of people who feel it was a low point in the series.

And those are all our new Hacks for now, but we've got some classics below. We'll be back in another six issues to say hi again. And for all you first-time readers, get that riot gear on.

-Amanda LaFranco

All kinds of cool stuff ahead! Including old letters! Woo!

-Robert Kirkman

Well, here we are at the landmark issue 25. We're not really doing one of those high-priced extra-sized anniversary issues... it just didn't feel right to me. So this is just another issue in a long line of issues, with many more to come. Who knows, maybe we'll do something special for issue 50. We'll see.

I'd like to take the time to thank all of you for sticking with the book this long and to those of you that came in late... I want to say thanks for giving the book a shot and then sticking with it after that.

I really do appreciate you folks giving me the chance to continue telling my story. I think we've got some cool stuff in store for you all and it's only going to get better from here. Charlie and Cliff get better with every issue and there already didn't seem to be any room for improvement... so if I could just step up my game a little, I think we'd have a perfect book on our hands. I hope you'll all stick around for 5000 more issues.

In other news, if any of you out there like this book... and also like Marvel super-heroes... you might want to give MARVEL ZOMBIES a shot. I'm writing it and the art is by the super-talented SEAN PHILIPS who's doing a real bang-up job on the series. By now the second issue is probably out, so be on the lookout for it.

Also, I'd like to welcome aboard our new cover art team of Charlie Adlard and Cliff Rathburn. I don't know if you guys know who they are. Charlie is an industry pro from way back whose credits include X-Files, Astronauts in Trouble, The Establishment, Savage *(from 2000 A.D.) and a little-known creator-owned book THE WALKING DEAD. He'll be handling the pencils and inks. Coloring the covers is the multi-talented Cliff Rathburn who did both pencils and inks on* Brit: Red White Black and Blue *as well as* Fantastic Four: Foes and Reaper. *He's also inking a few issues of INVINCIBLE over Ryan Ottley's pencils for me as well as gray-toning the same little-known creator-owned book Charlie draws... I already know they'll work well together. Let's give them a warm Walking Dead welcome.*

Now, without further ado... let's answer some damn mail.

Robert, Charlie and the rest of the Walking Dead gang,

I have been a fan of the book since issue 4, and continue to maintain that it is one of a handful of inventive, and high quality zombie themed properties out of the plethora of zombie movies, comics, and books. I must say though, the current storyline is languishing. The energy and quality that is so abundant in the first 10 issues has slowly been eroding, and now that the characters seem to be locked into some kind of soap opera. I completely understand, or at least I think I do, the current prison story arc and how you are focusing on the unraveling of the group. I feel, though, that somewhere around the time Tyreese emerged from the gym after his battle with the zombie hordes, my interest in the characters took a nosedive. I don't feel that any of them have really progressed for at least the last 4 issues. Walking Dead is a story of survivors trying to cope, and I get the fact that right now they are hiding out, and trying to make a new life apart from the zombies outside the compound. I also understand that change is coming, and the ending of issue №22 brings things to a turning point. I'm not asking for more zombies, or aliens, or smart zombies, like so many others that contribute to this letters column. What I am asking for is some better character development so I actually care what happens to these guys again.

First, I should point out that not much time has passed in these last few issues, there's only so much character development you can do in a small amount of time. Also, the soap opera stuff of the past few issues was a necessary step in where I'm going with this book. It's not the way the book is going to be from here on out. I quite enjoyed it, but for some it seems, it's going to have to be a necessary evil. I think you'll really enjoy what I have coming up.

It would also help if I could tell the difference between them. Charlie Adlard, by all accounts, walked into a very hot book and was asked to fill some very large shoes. His work has definitely progressed since his tenure began, and the Rick-Tyreese fight of issue №22 really showcases his talent. It seems he has really gotten the action down. It is unfortunate then that in the more static sequences earlier in the issue, I found it hard to differentiate between Rick and Herschel, as well as Carol and Andrea, whose main difference seems to be a few freckles. It is nice that Andrea was given

a scar to help make her stand out, and that Andrea.. err...Carol is now seemingly dead. This will no doubt help in the identifying process.

I think it's a shame that this some readers blame Charlie for their inability to tell the characters apart. Charlie coming on the book coincided with a large influx of new characters and THAT'S why it's harder now. Also, the fact that the book is black and white doesn't help. The characters do call each other by name a lot but really, when you get down to it... their faces are ALL very different. Carol and Andrea for instance... have ALWAYS looked VASTLY different.

I know this must read like hate mail, but please take it as criticism from a fan. C'mon guys let's get back on the ball.

Jonathan Bullock

I welcome the criticism... this is much more fun than saying "glad you liked the book, thanks for the letter" for the millionth time. Also, letters like this lead to things like the character list in the back of the book and my desire to hang myself. You're really doing us all a public service.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

This is my third letter to you guys and I am afraid it is more of the same. I just finished WD№22 and I am still loving this series. I got onboard with issue №1 and I am still enjoying the ride. You guys are doing a hell of a job. Keep it up!

I must admit I write this letter with ulterior motives as well. I just read from Marvel that you are writing the mini series Marvel Zombies due out in December. They say that it is a spin off of the Crossover story line from Ultimate Fantastic Four. What can you tell us, or at least just me, about this? I really enjoyed that story line and the idea of you writing a Marvel Zombies story is AWESOME!!!! I can't wait!!!

It's about the Marvel heroes as ZOMBIES. It's wacky and gory and crazy and action-packed. I dig it and it's in stores now.

Michael Mora

P.S. In my last two letters I told you that my friend was a "stupid jerk" for not reading The Walking Dead. Well guess what? He's still a stupid jerk who has not picked up an issue of this series. So in light of this could you print in Letter Hacks, "Hey Terrence you're a stupid jerk for not reading our comic!!" or something of that nature. It would be a dream come true. Thanks.

Hey, Terrence you're a stupid jerk for not reading our comic!!

Carol committed suicide—wasn't expecting that one! You might want to update the who's who—she is still alive on there! Wanted to let you know that there is a Walking Dead zombie novel on ebay right now by a Guy N. Smith from 1984. Did you know about this? I look forward to your zombie marvel limited series—they couldn't do better for the writer! Here is a question that I haven't noticed, if you did do a mini series on HBO, would you pull a Stan Lee and cameo in it? That would be cool. How much longer on the hardback collection? Issue №0---set it before the outbreak maybe?I Also cannot wait for the team- up with Spider-man and Invincible—very smart and unexpected team-ups yet! Another question, how come the survivors are not carrying around the heavy firepower from the armory or use the walkies to keep in touch? Anyway, thanks for the great job and keep'em dead!!!!

Bobby W. Chamberlain

As evidenced in this very issue, our heroes are just now to the point where they can catalogue the items in the armory. I'm sure they'll find a good use for all that stuff VERY soon

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Dear Kirkman,

First of all, congrats on Ultimate X-Men! You changed my mind about it. I'll definitely check it out. Also, I have been using the picture of zombie Spider-Man in classic pose for some time now. Marvel Zombies looks great. And man, Piers always has me beat. It's all I can do to come up with five questions. He had like fifteen.

Yeah, but all of Piers' questions are stupid.

Before the questions, I wanted to warn everyone about a movie named Zombiez. Yeah ok, the title should have warned me, but I tried it anyways. Holy crap what a terrible movie. It was actually hard to tell who was a zombie and who wasn't. They walked normal sometimes, talked very well, used sickles (of all things), only ate intestines/ cheap sausage, and hid, threw rocks, and laughed. There is a scene where a guy scares off a hoard by wildly shouting and waving a meat cleaver... Avoid it like the zombie plague.

Ok questions:

1. Piers had a good idea. Any chance of an all zombie issue? You could even subtitle their moans. No wait, scratch that last part.

Yeah... THAT sounds like a Piers question/ suggestion. All zombie issue... right.

2. Okay, so do you think Miguel (Day of the Dead) would have lived, had he not thrown himself to the zombies?

Who knows... I guess the jury is STILL out on the whole amputation saving a zombie bite victim thing...

3. Assuming that at some point they will leave the prison, what are some other locations you have considered? Shopping mall? I thought the gated community might work out, until the snow melted. Spooky roller disco?

I really can't answer this... I don't want to give anything away.

4. We've been loyal long enough, how about that contest to be a TWD zombie?

Too complicated.

5. Did you ever join Zombiearmy.com? If so, did you ever get your free stuff? F'n Zombiearmy...

Man... if I did, I can't remember.

6. What is your writing time like? That is, what kind of routines/rituals do you go through when you sit down to write? Not like praying to Pittsburg five times a day, but like putting on a Kiss album or writing in between commercials of Lost. How does the Kirkman do it?

Well, it certainly has NOTHING to do with any KISS albums (sorry Kiss fans—it's just before my time). I usually listen to music while I write... right now I'm rocking out to some very mellow Neil Young. I'm totally relaxed. I almost pooped my pants just a minute ago... it's THAT relaxing.

Well, like I've said before, you need to work on being more controversial. The stuff is still great, but I haven't felt a WTF moment for a while. No cows though. Oh, and zombie Sentry looks awesome. And Marvel Zombies is a good use of that internet derogatory term. Can't wait. Till the zombies start hiding behind rocks, throwing their voice to lure in their victim just to toss a small stone at their head to annoy them,

Your loyal fan,
Chris Pitts

Shit... have you read the script for issue 26? I need to take out that whole throwing their voices scene.

Kirkman,

You guys still have the best ongoing book on the shelf. Now that my friend Katie got me reading Invincible, you're the only other writer besides BKV that I read more 'n one title from. (I've trimmed my pull list to get more tattoo money.) Issue 22 was solid, but.... I know that these characters are the heart of the story and all, but how 'bout some zombie action? I better see some running and screaming and innards before long. After Rick and Tyreese get through beating the shite outta each other, that is.

I'm sorry, I lost you at "tattoo money." You'd be MUCH better off buying more comics. I don't even know if I can read the rest of your letter.

I read somewhere that you're, like, 26 years old. I'm 23 myself and I would like to hear your thoughts on the future of comics as a young person in the industry. I mean, I don't know how it is out there in other towns, but at my comic store, I'm like the young guy (excluding the few kids underfoot buying gaming cards). I know there have to be some young readers out there, and I know there are a few artists and the like who are young 'uns but mostly I just see people in their thirties and up when I'm in line for my holds. What do you think about where comics are headed?

There's plenty of life left in this industry to be sure. Saying anything more than that in this response would keep me from having room to print ANY letters. I'm sure I've said something more in-depth on the internet... you've got one of those internet things right?

Thanks in advance for printing this 'cause I'm not creatively vulgar enough for Bendis. Keep up the good work. Same to Charlie, Cliff, Rus and Tony.

Van Barnett

Thanks for the letter. You're just creatively vulgar enough for me.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

A few weeks ago I broke my silence, so to speak, as a comicbook fan and for the first time in all my twenty odd years of reading comics, wrote a letter to a comicbook writer/creator. I won't tell you who it was, so you can't be jealous, but I would like to think you're in good company. I love The Walking Dead. I don't care what anyone else has said, yours is the first zombie comic book that got it right! I'm sure you've heard that before, but I need to say it too. Feel good about yourself, sir. You're a wonderful, talented individual and I appreciate all the hours of entertainment you've provided for me and so many others. So thanks, dude.

I got a kick out of reading issue 22's letters section, or a couple pages of it anyway, and finding out that I'm not the only one who saves my current issue of The Walking Dead for last when I have a stack of books to read. I have to save it for last, yes, I have to savor it--it's just that good to me. I also tend to eat my meals more slowly than my friends do but that's beside the point I suppose. Like you said about reading your favorite books first, if I did that, I would probably have a stack of unread books too. Shit, I have a stack of books I'll probably never get to as it is but those were all bought years and years ago when my tastes were different. You tell a great story and it's hard for me to sit still for a month after reading the current issue. I had a ball reading the early issues since I had to go back and buy up back issues--I still don't have them all but I bought the first trade so I haven't missed anything. I read Days Gone Bye in one sitting and was hooked instantly and I needed more immediately. I went out and bought what I could find, hell I even went on eBay to get issue 7 and I ordered a bunch from online stores too but after a couple of weeks I had fifteen issues to read. Fifteen issues! IN A ROW! Even then, I stopped myself in the middle to savor this book so I didn't speed through it and find myself wanting too soon. I probably would have written in earlier, after reading other fan letters, but I was too keen on reading the next issue to stop and read the letters section. Anyway, enough about that.

Good job. I can't say anything bad about The Walking Dead. In fact, I can only point out things I liked a lot in particular. "Ruh.", as a sentence, as a word, as a zombie utterance. I don't know why but I just like it. It's a good zombie word. "A zombie would say that.", I said to myself, upon reading it way back when. You're going to read this and then write Ruh. as a reply in the letters column, I can just see that happening. And then I'll be crushed because it'll be like we weren't really talking but I'll laugh anyway and--er, I'm sorry. It's late and I'm hopped up on energy drinks. Oh yes, before I zap ahead, I just wanted to say that I absolutely love the cover art of issue 1. It's brilliant. Tony scored huge there. Tell Tony he rocks for me. Er, please? Since I've probably tripped all the "insane fan alarms" in your head just now I won't take too much more of your time. Michonne's survival method, the chained "neutered" zombies and sword (silent weapon), that was ingenious. How the fuck did you think of that?! I

also like how you're exploring the fact that everyone who dies also turns, regardless of how they died (headshots/braining being the exceptions). I don't think I've seen that explored too much just like the idea of amputation to avoid infection was never really fleshed out (sorry!) in Day Of The Dead since that particular character died shortly afterward. I've seen a few zombie movies, all of the Romero ones of course, but not a great many more so maybe I'm just uninformed in that sense.

Quick statements: I just read your interview with Suicide Girls guy Daniel Robert Epstein—good stuff and, I knew they were Thomas' remains. Now, the dreaded fan questions (which may or may not have already been asked and answered- - I'm so lame):

1. What zombie movies, aside from Romero's, would you recommend to me? I've seen Dead Alive, The Evil Dead movies, 28 Days Later, The Dawn Of The Dead remake, Shaun Of The Dead and the Resident Evil movies...

The Night of the Living Dead 1990 remake is a must. As is Lucio Fulci's "ZOMBIE" (but you can skip the sequels). UNDEAD is a brilliantly fun zombie flick. CEMETARY MAN is good. There's more but I'm having trouble coming up with them off the top of my head right now.

2. What'd you think about MTU making an appearance in the TV spot (haven't seen the movie yet) for The 40 Year Old Virgin?

It's in the movie too. Steve Carrel thinks MTU is funny... it's not just in the script, he's actually READING the book and thinks it's funny. I'm totally famous.

3. Do you ever write back to your fans? I mean, even just to send them their letters back with corrected grammar and spelling? I know you've thought about it!

I'm too busy for that nonsense. Half the time I don't even READ the letters until it's time to put the column together.

4. Ever find yourself wishing that fans still had to actually handwrite letters and send them through snail mail or are you glad for email making things that much easier?

Email is a godsend. I wouldn't print ANYTHING if I had to retype it myself... which is why I don't print snail mail letters.

5. Marvel Zombies, dream job? I saw you getting crap in the letters of MTU's early issues for a rotted corpse... A big "Fuck you" to the naysayers maybe?

That's as good an explanation as any.

6. Did you read any of the Zombie World stuff from Dark Horse? Love it, hate it? I thought the Eat Your Heart Out one-shot by Kelly Jones was especially creepy myself.

That was good and Winter's Dregs was good. The rest... not so much... but those two were downright amazing.

7. Did you read Romero's comic, Toe Tags from DC? Love it, hate it?

Romero is the master... no doubt. Toe Tags... must have been an off day.

8. Am I in trouble for not underlining all the comic book titles I'm mentioning? Come to think of it, am I in trouble for naming other publishers?! Eek... Don't sic Erik Larsen on me!!

I'm sorry, you've brought this upon yourself.

Okay, I'm done pestering you. Thank you once again for The Walking Dead and I hope you go way past seventy-five issues. My heartfelt thanks go out to Charlie Adlard and Cliff Rathburn as well, you guys rock too! I would say more but I'll save it for another letter... I tend to ramble on about artwork. Just keep doing what you're doing fellas, I love it!

Will T.

Ruh.

Dear Letter Hacks

Pardon me for asking, but will WD40 be the all action engine overhaul issue we've all been longing for? Sorry, been a long, hard, difficult week!

Cheers,
Jeff

For you man—I'll make sure that happens!!

Of course, I've never written to a comic before.

"The Walking Dead №23: Fist Fight!" Yay! The ubiquitous prison-movie punch-up! Fantastic! But before we get to that, I've got to say that №22 was a great issue. A slightly quieter episode, with lots of checking up on our survivors (I particularly like how you've been developing Axel as a more sympathetic, thoughtful character), and not one, but two big splash page cliffhangers! Yikes! Top notch stuff, as per usual.

All that said, I'm not sure what was going on on page 21 with Rick putting his finger in Tyreese's ear. Is that some kind of Crocodile Hunter-style calming technique he learned during police training?

I don't want Charlie coming round to punch me in the face; the art was great as ever, it was just a weird panel. Please don't hit me!

Kelvin Green

That's what's called a "TANGENT" in the comic world. Rick's not putting his finger in Tyreese' ear... it just looks like his is, on accident, because of the way it was drawn.

I thought it was funny.

And that'll do it for this letters column. I'll see you all back here very shortly for issue 26.

-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 25

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

IWD 25

¿HABLAR DE MORGAN + DAVID? SE EQUIVOCA DE NOMBRE.
CARL HACE DE FLAUTISTA DE HAMELIN
RICK SE PREOCUPA POR ELLOS.

1. REGISTRANDO LA PRISIÓN. ¿RICK A TODA PÁGINA?
2. HABLAR DEL GENERADOR.
3. OYEN ALGO.
4. SORPRENDEN A TYREESE! ¿ES UN ZOMBI?
5. MOMENTO INCÓMODO CON RICK.
6. GLENN MIRAD LO QUE HE ENCONTRADO! ARMADURA.
7. INSPECCIONAN EL CUARTO DE LAS ARMAS. HABLAN DE DEXTER.
8. LIBROS. ANDREA CARGANDO CON LIBROS - LORI LA AYUDA.
9. GASOLINA. HABLAN DEL EMBARAZO DE LORI.
10. LO QUE SEA.
11. ¿A DÓNDE VA RICK? ¿TÚ QUÉ CREES?
12. A TODA PÁGINA RICK EN LA TUMBA DE ALLEN. ME ALEGRO DE QUE TE ENTERRARAN...
13. ¿FLAUTISTA DE HAMELIN?
14. CARL MENEANDO EL CULO. "¿QUIERES MORDERME? ¿CABEZA HUECA? MUÉRDEME EL CULO!"
15. USAN LA ARMADURA -- "NO PERDEMOS NADA" (GLENN)
16. EXTRAEN GASOLINA DE LOS COCHES.
17.
18. DEJAN LA GASOLINA - HUYEN PARA QUE DEJEN DE VENIR.
19. LUCHA.
20. VUELVEN A LA PUERTA-- "PRIMERO HAY QUE OCUPARSE DE LOS ZOMBIS..." LIBRARNOS DE ELLOS.
21. "LORI--¿QUÉ PASA?" RICK Y LORI SE RELAJAN AL FINAL DEL DÍA.
22. "ESTOY SANGRANDO!" (LORI)

Hay mucho de lo que hablar de este número. ¡Y muchas cosas que revelar! Creo que lo más importante que revelar es acerca de las portadas... Y sinceramente, es algo que no creo que nadie aparte de mí realmente sepa. Si miráis las portadas para los cómics №25-30 de esta serie, son SEIS portadas seguidas de trajes antidisturbios. No hay un solo personaje del cómic que aparezca en estas portadas.

Hubo un tiempo en que barajé hacer del cómic №25 esencialmente un cómic №1, que presentara un elenco completamente nuevo de personajes. También barajé que los personajes encontraran trajes antidisturbios en la prisión para que las portadas siguieran funcionando si iba por ese camino. Así que estaba cubriéndome las espaldas.

El plan era pasar tiempo con un grupo nuevo de gente, ver cómo sobrevivieron y conocerlos a fondo, y luego con el tiempo se toparían con Rick Grimes y compañía y ambos grupos se fusionarían en el elenco completo del cómic. Sabía que se acercaba Woodbury, y El Gobernador... todo esto habría sido un desvío de mis planes.

Al final... no lo hice. Pero lo barajé muy seriamente cuando escribía los cómics №*22-24*, mientras todas estas portadas se dibujaban para las solicitudes.

Hora de citar a una celebridad. En la época en la que se escribieron estos números, se me encomendó que me hiciera cargo de *Ultimate X-Men* de Marvel. Brian K. Vaughan estaba terminando su serie y necesitaban que alguien escribiera una pequeña tirada de números antes de que Brian Singer (sí, ya se había anunciado que se haría cargo del cómic por un tiempo) finalmente pudiera hacer su serie. Por aquel entonces, Damon Lindelof estaba escribiendo *Ultimate Wolverine vs Hulk* y era un purista de la continuidad, por lo que quería asegurarme de que el Lobezno que escribía en X-Men se sincronizara debidamente con el suyo. (Vaya, en Marvel estaban como locos por conseguir que la gente de Hollywood escribiera cómics por aquel entonces.)

Damon es un tipo muy majo y accedió a hablar por teléfono con este humilde escritor de cómics de Kentucky. Siendo un gran fan de *Perdidos*, estaba muy emocionado, y no me enorgullece demasiado admitir que tuve algún problema para mantener la calma durante la llamada.

Ahora bien, si miráis en la trama de la página anterior, veréis que el final de este número, originalmente era muy distinto y... no tan bueno.

Mientras hablaba por teléfono de Lobezno y X-Men con Damon, comentó que estaba disfrutando THE WALKING DEAD (cuando no tenías que especificar si el cómic o la serie de TV (o los videojuegos, juegos de mesa, otras series de TV, juegos de móvil u OTRAS series de TV) y me sugirió una cosa para el cómic. Dijo, "¿No molaría que los personajes vieran un helicóptero sobrevolando la zona?" Inmediatamente pensé para mí, "Vaya, es una forma mucho mejor de terminar el cómic №25", y le dije a Damon que me gustaba mucho la idea y si no le importaba si la utilizaba. Muy amablemente me dio su bendición.

Notareis que al final del número Rick y Glenn VEN un helicóptero, pero el lector no lo ve. Eso es porque todavía no había decido qué clase de helicóptero estaban viendo ni hacia dónde se dirigía, de dónde venía ni cómo afectaría a la historia.

Para mí, la mejor forma de escribir cómics es tener planificada una hoja de ruta clara que siempre puedas usar en caso de apuro. Cuanto más a largo plazo sean esos planes, mejor. Pero JAMÁS DE LOS JAMASES permitas que esos planes te impidan hacer algo espontaneo que se te ocurra en el momento. Ahí reside la verdadera diversión de escribir.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1-8: Aproximadamente lo mismo que terminó en el guion.

9: Esta charla del embarazo y que Carol se preocupara por Lori estaba preparando el final más penoso que no usamos. La escena sigue funcionando, pero habría tenido más importancia si el final no hubiese cambiado.

10: Veréis más de esto a medida que me sentía más seguro con mi forma de escribir con el paso de los años. El "Lo que sea" viene a decir "Ya lo pensaré luego". ¿Qué puse aquí? Pues más cotorreo de Rick, Tyreese y Dale para preparar el conflicto del número. La salida a por gasolina.

13-14: Originalmente Carl iba a tener un papel importante atrayendo a los zombis de la puerta. Echo en falta la frase del "¡muérdeme el culo". No sé si alguna vez la habré utilizado en el cómic. Por alguna razón, decidí convertir a Lori en la aguafiestas una vez más, y que considerara que eso no era seguro para Carl.

15-20: Originalmente iba a ser una secuencia más frenética y llena de acción en la que las cosas no saldrían bien, y tendrían que regresar a toda prisa a la puerta presas del pánico. Evidentemente, todo esto cambió.

21-22: El final original. Un momento tranquilo con Rick y Lori cuando ocurre un desastre, ¡el bebé está en peligro! ¿A dónde iba esto? Que yo recuerde, iba a llevar a Lori a quedarse en cama durante el resto del embarazo... lo que significa que este habría sido un final abierto bastante penoso sin consecuencias reales que solo parecían terribles hasta que leyeras el siguiente número. Cosa que he HECHO de vez en cuando, pero siempre trato de evitar. Por eso cuando Damon hizo su sugerencia... ¡La aproveché! ¡Gracias de nuevo, Damon!

PORTADA
SEAN PHILLIPS

"¡¡Rick, CUIDADO!!"

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

ANDREI BRESSAN

NÚMERO 26

¡DISPONIBLE 3 DE NOVIEMBRE, 2021!

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La PRESENTACIÓN DELUXE de la épica del horror de supervivencia, contada nuevamente a todo color... comienza aquí.

PORTADA ORIGINAL DEL NÚMERO 25 DE
CHARLIE ADLARD & CLIFF RATHBURN

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